

OREGON POTATOES



**NATIONAL
AGRICULTURAL
STATISTICS
SERVICE**

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PROCESSING

Processors in Washington and Oregon (excluding Malheur County) used 32.3 million cwt of raw potatoes to December 1, 2004, a decrease of 1 percent from the 32.7 million cwt processed during the same period last year and a decrease of 4 percent from 33.7 million cwt processed during the same period two years ago. Processing to December 1 in Washington and Oregon (excluding Malheur County) accounted for 29 percent of the 2004 production for those areas. Processors in Idaho and Malheur County, Oregon used 24.4 million cwt of raw potatoes to December 1, less than a one percent increase from a year ago but a 14 percent decrease from two years ago. Total processing of the 2004 crop potatoes was 70.7 million cwt to December 1, down just over 2 percent from last year and down slightly over 8 percent from two years ago. Of the processed total, 13.4 million cwt were used for dehydrated products, excluding starch and flour.

Potatoes Used for Processing, Selected States, 2003 & 2004 ^{1/}

State	Storage Season	To Dec 1	To Jan 1	To Feb 1	To Mar 1	To Apr 1	To May 1	To Jun 1	Entire Season
<i>1,000 Cwt</i>									
Idaho & Malheur Co., Ore.	2003-04	24,310	30,730	36,260	43,640	49,570	56,380	63,770	77,530
	2004-05	24,360	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Maine ^{2/}	2003-04	1,590	2,085	2,720	3,420	4,095	4,740	5,400	7,270
	2004-05	1,555	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Wash. & Other Area, Ore.	2003-04	32,670	38,520	43,610	51,210	58,500	64,160	72,350	79,800
	2004-05	32,270	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Other States ^{3/}	2003-04	13,835	16,505	19,590	22,685	25,920	29,480	32,845	42,160
	2004-05	12,525	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Total	2003-04	72,405	87,840	102,180	120,955	138,085	154,760	174,365	206,760
	2004-05	70,710	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

^{1/} Total quantity received and used for processing regardless of the State in which the potatoes were produced. Amount excludes quantities used for potato chips in ME, MI, and WI. ^{2/} Includes Maine grown potatoes only. ^{3/} CO, MN, NV, ND, and WI.

DECEMBER 1 STOCKS DOWN NEARLY SIX PERCENT

Potato stocks in Oregon totaled 17.0 million cwt as of December 1, 2004, reflecting a decrease of nearly 6 percent from December 1, 2003. This total accounts for 86 percent of the 2004 crop production in Oregon, as it did last year at this time. Stocks include potatoes received from other States now being stored in Oregon.

About 61 percent of Oregon's stocks are in the Hermiston/Boardman area, while 16 percent are in Klamath County and 15 percent are in Malheur County. Last year at this time, 68 percent of Oregon's stocks were in the Hermiston/Boardman area, while 13 percent were in Klamath County and 12 percent were in Malheur County. Hermiston/Boardman area stocks are down 15 percent from one year ago, while Klamath County stocks are up nearly 13 percent and Malheur County stocks are up 18 percent from last year.

Potato stocks are defined as the quantity (whether sold or not) remaining in storage for all purposes and uses, including shrinkage, waste and other losses that occur after December 1.

UNITED STATES POTATO STOCKS UP 1 PERCENT

The 15 major potato States held 272 million cwt of potatoes in storage December 1, 2004, up 1 percent from last year and 3 percent above 2002. Potatoes in storage account for 67 percent of the 2004 fall storage States' production, 1 percentage point above last year. Stocks by type were 3 percent red, 12 percent round white, 4 percent long white (Shepody), and 81 percent russets, with fewer reds and more long whites than a year ago. Disappearance of 132 million cwt from the start of harvest to December 1, is down 3 percent from last year and 8 percent below two years ago. Shrink and loss, at 16.8 million cwt, is up 12 percent from last year and 8 percent above the same date in 2002.

Western States held 184 million cwt of potatoes in storage on December 1, up 3 percent from last year but 1 percent below two years ago. Idaho's potato stocks are up 9 percent from last year, California increased 19 percent, and Montana's storages held 10 percent more. Potato sheds in Washington and Colorado both stored 2 percent less than last year.

Central States accounted for 68.2 million cwt of potato stocks on December 1, down 5 percent from last year but 11 percent above two years ago. Wisconsin potato sheds stored 5 percent less than last year, Minnesota and Michigan stocks both decreased 7 percent, Nebraska went down 11 percent, and Ohio's potato sheds stored 33 percent less. North Dakota's sheds are the only ones in the central States storing more potatoes than last year with an increase of 1 percent.

Eastern States stored 19.1 million cwt of potatoes on December 1, up 6 percent from last year and 17 percent above 2003. Maine's stocks are up 11 percent from last year, while New York stocks increased 7 percent. Pennsylvania's sheds decreased 37 percent from a year ago.

Fall Potatoes: Production and Stocks, 2000-2004, Oregon & 15 Fall States

Crop Year	Production	Total Stocks						
		Dec 1	Following Year					
			Jan 1	Feb 1	Mar 1	Apr 1	May 1	Jun 1
Oregon		<i>1,000 Cwt</i>						
2000	30,683	25,000	23,000	20,000	17,000	13,600	10,000	6,400
2001	20,730	17,500	15,500	14,000	11,500	8,500	6,500	3,000
2002	24,936	17,500	15,000	12,500	9,900	7,500	5,000	2,300
2003	20,991	18,000	15,800	13,500	11,000	8,400	5,500	2,900
2004	19,775	17,000	-	-	-	-	-	-
15 States ^{1/}								
2000	458,827	310,300	275,270	234,260	197,670	153,520	109,160	61,270
2001	387,033	258,750	224,680	192,090	158,590	119,950	81,200	42,990
2002	407,085	264,485	231,490	199,020	165,210	125,770	83,040	45,880
2003	403,181	267,900	233,590	200,230	166,280	126,110	85,000	46,020
2004	403,127	271,600	-	-	-	-	-	-

^{1/} See table below for listing of 15 states.

Production and Total Stocks of Fall Potatoes held by Growers, Processors and Local Dealers on December 1, 2003 & December 1, 2004 ^{1/}

State	Crop of 2003			Crop of 2004		
	Production	Total Stocks December 1, 2003	December 1 Stocks as % of Production	Production	Total Stocks December 1, 2004	December 1 Stocks as % of Production
	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>		<i>Percent</i>	<i>1,000 Cwt</i>		<i>Percent</i>
California	3,528	2,700	77	3,876	3,200	83
Colorado	23,652	17,500	74	23,148	17,200	74
Idaho	123,180	86,000	70	131,970	93,500	71
Maine	17,030	13,500	79	19,220	15,000	78
Michigan	15,015	9,200	61	13,650	8,600	63
Minnesota	22,330	14,000	63	18,920	13,000	69
Montana	3,339	3,100	93	3,551	3,400	96
Nebraska	9,744	6,500	67	8,938	5,800	65
New York	6,510	2,700	41	5,184	2,900	56
N. Dakota	27,440	19,400	71	26,765	19,600	73
Ohio	1,097	300	27	1,080	200	19
Oregon	20,991	18,000	86	19,775	17,000	86
Pennsylvania	3,375	1,900	56	2,530	1,200	47
Washington	93,150	51,000	55	93,810	50,000	53
Wisconsin	32,800	22,100	67	30,710	21,000	68
15 STATES	403,181	267,900	66	403,127	271,600	67

^{1/} Stocks include processor holdings and seed to plant following year's crop. Seed usage in 2004 totaled 26.4 million cwt.

OREGON'S POTATO PRODUCTION REMAINS STEADY FROM NOVEMBER'S FORECAST

Oregon's 2004 potato production is estimated at 19.8 million cwt., unchanged from the November forecast. The 2004 crop production is also nearly 6 percent below the 2003 crop and nearly 21 percent below the 2002 crop. Across Oregon, yield is estimated at 534 cwt per acre, the highest yield since the 2000 crop. Planted acreage levels decreased by 14 percent in 2004 to 37,000 acres, while harvested acreage, also estimated at 37,000 acres, decreased by 13 percent.

In Malheur County, 5,200 acres were harvested with a record yield of 470 cwt per acre, an increase of 55 cwt from the 2003 crop. In all other counties of Oregon, 31,800 acres were harvested with an average yield of 545 cwt per acre, up 40 cwt from the 2003 crop.

Fall Potatoes, Production Forecast, December 1, 2004

States	Area Harvested		Yield Per Acre		Production	
	2003	2004	2003	2004	2003	2004
	<i>1,000 acres</i>		<i>Cwt</i>		<i>1,000 Cwt</i>	
WINTER	14.3	18.5	282	260	4,027	4,818
SPRING	84.7	71.7	288	266	24,433	19,077
SUMMER	58.7	55.1	320	336	18,766	18,487
FALL						
California	8.3	7.6	425	510	3,528	3,876
Colorado	65.7	64.3	360	360	23,652	23,148
Idaho, All	358.0	353.0	344	374	123,180	131,970
10 SW Counties	25.0	25.0	465	490	11,625	12,250
Other Areas	330.0	328.0	335	365	111,555	119,720
Indiana	3.7	3.2	250	350	925	1,120
Maine	65.5	62.0	260	310	17,030	19,220
Massachusetts	2.7	2.5	265	320	716	800
Michigan	45.5	42.0	330	325	15,015	13,650
Minnesota	58.0	44.0	385	430	22,330	18,920
Montana	10.6	10.6	315	335	3,339	3,551
Nebraska	23.2	21.8	420	410	9,744	8,938
Nevada	8.0	6.7	415	430	3,320	2,881
New Mexico	4.0	4.0	400	430	1,600	1,720
New York	21.7	19.2	300	270	6,510	5,184
North Dakota	112.0	101.0	245	265	27,440	26,765
Ohio	4.3	3.6	255	300	1,097	1,080
Oregon, All	42.6	37.0	493	534	20,991	19,775
Malheur, Co	5.8	5.2	415	470	2,407	2,444
Other Areas	36.8	31.8	505	545	18,584	17,331
Pennsylvania	12.5	11.0	270	230	3,375	2,530
Rhode Island	0.6	0.5	285	350	171	175
South Dakota ^{1/}	1.0	-	340	-	340	-
Utah ^{1/}	1.0	-	335	-	335	-
Washington	162.0	159.0	575	590	93,150	93,810
Wisconsin	80.0	74.0	410	415	32,800	30,710
TOTAL FALL	1,090.9	1,027.0	376	399	410,588	409,823
UNITED STATES	1,248.6	1,172.3	367	386	457,814	452,205

^{1/} Estimates discontinued in 2004.

U.S. FALL POTATO PRODUCTION UP LESS THAN 1 PERCENT FROM NOVEMBER

Production of fall potatoes for 2004 is forecast at 410 million cwt, up less than 1 percent from last month but virtually unchanged from last year for comparable States. South Dakota and Utah were dropped from the program starting in 2004. Area harvested, at 1.03 million acres, is up less than 1 percent from November but 6 percent below last year. The average yield is forecast at 399 cwt per acre, 14 cwt above last month and 23 cwt above last year. If realized, this will be a record high yield, 7 cwt above the previous record set in 2000.

Western States production is forecast at 281 million cwt, virtually unchanged from the November forecast but up 3 percent from last year for comparable States. Acreage harvested, at 642,200 acres, decreased 3 percent from last year, but the average yield of 437 cwt per acre is up 23 cwt from 2003. Record high yields in Idaho increased production 7 percent from the previous year. Favorable growing conditions during the season contributed to the good size and quality of the tubers. Production in Washington went up 1 percent from last year. Colorado's production decreased 2 percent as more acres were abandoned due to higher disease rates and water management issues. California's production is up 10 percent from last year. Ideal weather and excellent soil conditions increased yields 85 cwt from 2003 to 510 cwt per acre, more than offsetting the decrease in harvested acres. Growers in Montana expect production to be 6 percent above the 2003 crop. Nevada's production is expected to decrease 13 percent. New Mexico production is expected to be 8 percent above last season.

Central States production is forecast at 101 million cwt, up 1 percent from the November forecast but down 7 percent from last year for comparable States. Harvested area, estimated at 289,600 acres, is up 1 percent from November but 11 percent below a year ago. Average yields, at 349 cwt per acre, are up 2 cwt from last month and 14 cwt above a year ago. Production in Michigan is 9 percent below 2003 and Minnesota's production is down 15 percent from last year. A record high yield of 430 cwt per acre in Minnesota does not make up for the 24 percent decrease in harvested acres. Due to very wet spring conditions producers planted less potato acreage and reported higher rates of abandonment in Minnesota and Michigan. However, moderate summer temperatures led to good yields. Growers in North Dakota expect a 2 percent decrease from last season. North Dakota growers also expect a record high yield of 265 cwt per acre, 20 cwt above the previous record set in 2003. Indiana's production increased 21 percent from last year. Wisconsin growers are expecting a record high yield of 415 cwt per acre, 5 cwt above last year. However, production is expected to decrease 6 percent due to fewer harvested acres. Nebraska growers expect production to decrease 8 percent and Ohio 2 percent.

Eastern States production is forecast at 27.9 million cwt, up 2 percent from the November forecast and up less than 1 percent from last year. Area for harvest totaled 95,200 acres, up 1 percent from last month but 8 percent below last year. Average yield, at 293 cwt per acre, is up 4 cwt from November and 23 cwt above last season. Heavy rains late in the season drowned out low lying fields in Maine, New York, and Pennsylvania, resulting in quality problems and higher rates of abandonment. Record high yields in Maine and Massachusetts more than offset lower harvested acres. A 13 percent production increase from last year is expected in Maine. Massachusetts production is up 12 percent from a year ago. New York production is expected to decrease 20 percent from 2003. Pennsylvania growers expect a 25 percent decrease from last year. Rhode Island production is expected to increase 2 percent from 2003.

RELIABILITY OF DECEMBER 1 STOCKS ESTIMATES

The "Root Mean Square Error" for the December 1 stocks estimate is 2.4 percent. This means that chances are 2 out of 3 that the current estimate of 272 million cwt will not be above or below the final estimate by more than 2.4 percent or approximately 6.5 million cwt. Chances are 9 out of 10 (90 percent confidence level) that the difference will not exceed 4.1 percent or approximately 11.1 million cwt.

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